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NORWEB COLLECTION
SPANS 2,000 YEARS
IN BRITISH COINAGE

British gold coins covering a period from 50 B.C. up to the reign of the present Queen Elizabeth are currently on display at The Cleveland Museum of Art. They are one significant segment of a collection of more than 25,000 coins assembled by Mrs. R. Henry Norweb, who placed the eighty gold coins at the Museum as an extended loan.

The earliest examples in the exhibition are so-called "ring money", used by the ancient Britons before the Roman occupation of England; the most recent are contemporary. The collection is complete -- no gold coins minted in England are missing. However, observers will note the absence of examples from several periods of English history; these represent times during which only coins of copper or silver were issued.

The design of the coins is of considerable interest for students of both art and history: in many cases the portrait quality is extraordinarily high; and several groups show portraits which illustrate the reigning monarchs over a considerable span of years. Among the latter are the first Queen Elizabeth -- shown in five portraits covering a period from 1558 to 1601; Victoria on four coins from 1839 to 1893; and the unhappy George III (in whose reign the American colonies won their independence) who is shown on four coins issued between the years 1761 to 1820.

Mrs. Norweb's position as an authority on coins and coin-collecting is an international one. She has appeared before the British Numismatic Association at a recent meeting in the British Museum and she is chairman of the United States Committee of the American Numismatic Society. The Norweb collection is ranked among the world's most important.

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